

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-39, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

40. (New) A method for performing handoff in a communication system, the method comprising:

receiving, by a subscriber station, pilot signals and reverse link power control commands from one or more base stations;

selecting a first base station for transmission of forward link data to the subscriber station based, at least in part, on energy of the pilot signals received from the one or more base stations; and

selectively performing a handoff to the first base station based, at least in part, on whether signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy according to the reverse link power control commands received from the first base station.

C1 41. (New) The method of claim 40 further comprising:

storing information corresponding to the reverse link power control commands

Cont. received from the one or more base stations.

42. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein selectively performing the handoff comprises:

determining whether it is necessary to perform the handoff to the first base station;

if it is necessary to perform the handoff, determining whether the signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy based, at least in part, on history of the reverse link power control commands received from the first base station; and

if the signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy, permitting the handoff to the first base station.

43. (New) The method of claim 42 further comprising:
if the signals transmit by the subscriber station are not received by the first base station with sufficient energy, inhibiting the handoff to the first base station.

44. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein inhibiting comprises:
selecting an alternative base station for transmission of forward link data to the subscriber station.

45. (New) The method of claim 42 further comprising:
if it is not necessary to perform the handoff, determining whether a base station currently being used for transmission of forward link data to the subscriber station receives signals from the subscriber station with sufficient energy; and
if the base station currently being used does not receive signals from the subscriber station with sufficient energy, performing a handoff to an alternative base station.

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Cont. 46. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein performing the handoff to the alternative base station comprises:
selecting the alternative base station based on reverse link power control commands received from the alternative base station indicating that signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the alternative base station with sufficient energy.

47. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein permitting the handoff to the first base station comprises:
transmitting, by the subscriber station, a message indicating identity of the first base station.

48. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the message further indicates a requested rate to transmit to the subscriber station.

49. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a receiver to receive pilot signals and reverse link power control commands from one or more base stations; and

a processor to select a first base station for transmission of forward link data to a subscriber station based, at least in part, on energy of the pilot signals received from the one or more base stations and to selectively perform a handoff to the first base station based, at least in part, on whether signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy according to the reverse link power control commands received from the first base station.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 49 further comprising:

a memory to store information corresponding to the reverse link power control commands received from the one or more base stations.

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cont. 51. (New) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the processor determines whether it is necessary to perform handoff to the first base station and, if it is necessary to perform handoff to the first base station, determines whether the signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy based, at least in part, on history of the reverse link power control commands received from the first base station.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein, the processor permits handoff to the first base station if the signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein, if the signals transmit by the subscriber station are not received by the first base station with sufficient energy, the processor inhibits the handoff to the first base station.

54. (New) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the processor selects an alternative base station for transmission of forward link data to the subscriber station.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein, if it is not necessary to perform the handoff to the first base station, the processor determines whether a base station currently being used for transmission of forward link data to the subscriber station receives signals from the subscriber station with sufficient energy and performs a handoff to an alternative base station if the base station currently being used does not receive signals from the subscriber station with sufficient energy.

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Cont. 56. (New) The apparatus of claim 55 wherein the processor selects the alternative base station based on reverse link power control commands received from the alternative base station indicating that signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the alternative base station with sufficient energy.

57. (New) The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the processor transmits a message indicating identity of the first base station.

58. (New) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the message further indicates a requested rate to transmit to the subscriber station.

59. (New) A system comprising:
a plurality of base stations, each base station to transmit pilot signals and reverse link power control commands; and
a subscriber station to receive the pilot signals and reverse link power control commands transmitted by the base stations, the subscriber station to select a first base

station for transmission of forward link data to the subscriber station based, at least in part, on energy of the pilot signals received from the base stations and to selectively perform a handoff to the first base station based, at least in part, on whether signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy according to the reverse link power control commands received from the first base station.

60. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the subscriber station includes a memory to store information corresponding to the reverse link power control commands received from the base stations.

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Cont. 61. (New) The system of claim 59 wherein the subscriber station determines whether it is necessary to perform handoff to the first base station and, if it is necessary to perform handoff to the first base station, determines whether the signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy based, at least in part, on history of the reverse link power control commands received from the first base station.

62. (New) The system of claim 61 wherein, the subscriber station permits handoff to the first base station if the signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy.

63. (New) The system of claim 61 wherein, if the signals transmit by the subscriber station are not received by the first base station with sufficient energy, the subscriber inhibits the handoff to the first base station.

64. (New) The system of claim 63 wherein the subscriber station selects an alternative base station for transmission of forward link data to the subscriber station.

65. (New) The system of claim 61 wherein, if it is not necessary to perform the handoff to the first base station, the subscriber station determines whether a base station currently being used for transmission of forward link data to the subscriber station receives signals from the subscriber station with sufficient energy and performs a handoff to an alternative base station if the base station currently being used does not receive signals from the subscriber station with sufficient energy.

66. (New) The system of claim 65 wherein the subscriber station selects the alternative base station based on reverse link power control commands received from the alternative base station indicating that signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the alternative base station with sufficient energy.

67. (New) The system of claim 62 wherein the subscriber station transmits a message indicating identity of the first base station.

68. (New) The system of claim 67 wherein the message further indicates a requested rate to transmit to the subscriber station.

69. (New) An apparatus for performing handoff in a communication system, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving, at a subscriber station, pilot signals and reverse link power control commands from one or more base stations;

means for selecting a first base station for transmission of forward link data to the subscriber station based, at least in part, on energy of the pilot signals received from the one or more base stations; and

means for selectively performing a handoff to the first base station based, at least in part, on whether signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy according to the reverse link power control commands received from the first base station.

70. (New) The apparatus of claim 69 further comprising:

means for storing information corresponding to the reverse link power control commands received from the one or more base stations.

71. (New) The apparatus of claim 69 wherein means for selectively performing the handoff comprises:

means for determining whether it is necessary to perform the handoff to the first base station;

means for determining, if it is necessary to perform the handoff, whether the signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy based, at least in part, on history of the reverse link power control commands received from the first base station; and

means for permitting the handoff to the first base station, if the signals transmitted by the subscriber station are received by the first base station with sufficient energy.

72. (New) The apparatus of claim 71 further comprising:

means for inhibiting the handoff to the first base station, if the signals transmit by the subscriber station are not received by the first base station with sufficient energy.

73. (New) The apparatus of claim 71 further comprising:

means for determining, if it is not necessary to perform the handoff to the first base station, whether a base station currently being used for transmission of forward link data to the subscriber station receives signals from the subscriber station with sufficient energy; and

means for performing a handoff to an alternative base station, if the base station currently being used does not receive signals from the subscriber station with sufficient energy.

74. (New) The apparatus of claim 71 wherein means for permitting the handoff to the first base station comprises:

means for transmitting a message indicating identity of the first base station.

75. (New) The apparatus of claim 74 wherein the message further indicates a requested rate to transmit to the subscriber station.
